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Intelligence Information Cable

●ROUTINE

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PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

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DIST 21 JULY 1976

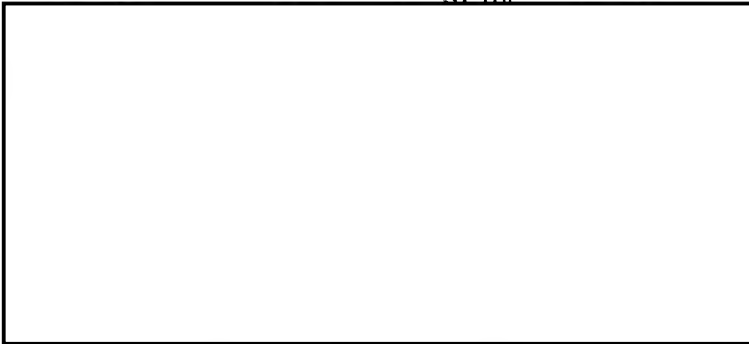
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FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i) (1) -
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INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

COUNTRY ARGENTINA/CUBA

SUBJECT BACKGROUND TO OPERATION LEADING TO THE
DISCOVERY BY THE SECURITY FORCES OF MARIO
SANTUCHO, COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY ARMY



1. THE INFORMATION WHICH ENABLED THE SECURITY
FORCES TO LOCATE MARIO ROBERTO SANTUCHO.

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PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

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COMMANDER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ERP), WAS PROVIDED BY AN ERP OFFICIAL WHO CONTACTED THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND OFFERED TO REVEAL THE WHEREABOUTS OF SANTUCHO AND OTHER ERP LEADERS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF HIS WIFE WHO HAD BEEN PICKED UP. THE ARMY NOT ONLY AGREED, BUT ALSO PROMISED THE ERP OFFICIAL THAT HE WOULD BE GIVEN MONEY AND ASSISTANCE IN LEAVING ARGENTINA WITH HIS FAMILY. THE ARMY THEREUPON TOOK THE ERP OFFICIAL TO SEE HIS WIFE TO ASSURE HIM THAT SHE WAS BEING HELD AND WAS WELL; AFTER WHICH THE ERP OFFICIAL PINPOINTED THE BUILDING IN VILLA MARTELLI IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE NEAR THE CAPITAL WHERE SANTUCHO AND OTHER ERP LEADERS WERE HIDING OUT. THE ERP OFFICIAL SAID THAT SANTUCHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN THIS BUILDING FOR ABOUT A MONTH. [REDACTED] COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN THE NEWS MEDIA, A SHOOTOUT BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND EXTREMISTS TOOK PLACE IN VILLA MARTELLI ON 19 JULY 1976 RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF SANTUCHO, ERP LEADER JORGE BENITO R T E A G A AND OTHERS WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED.)

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2. THE ERP OFFICIAL ALSO TOLD THE AUTHORITIES THAT

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PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES

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BECAUSE OF THE DANGER TO SANTUCHO'S LIFE AS A RESULT
OF THE COUNTERSUBVERSIVE CAMPAIGN IN ARGENTINA, SANTUCHO
WAS PLANNING TO TRAVEL IN LATE JULY TO CUBA VIA MENDOZA
IN ARGENTINA, CHILE AND EUROPE, TO REMAIN IN CUBA ABOUT
A MONTH. [] COMMENT: SANTUCHO'S WIFE, HER PARENTS
AND HER CHILDREN BY A FORMER MARRIAGE ARE BELIEVED TO BE
IN CUBA.) [] COMMENT: []

E025x1

[]
[] A PLANE TICKET TO CUBA WAS FOUND ON
SANTUCHO'S BODY.)

3. THE ERP OFFICIAL SAID THAT EARLIER IN JULY SANTUCHO
HAD MET WITH MARIO FIRMENICH, COMMANDER OF THE Argentine
MONTONEROS, TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE
POSSIBILITY OF A MERGER OF THE ERP WITH THE MONTONEROS,
A SITUATION WHICH WAS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED BY THE
TWO ORGANIZATIONS AS OF 19 JULY. ACCORDING TO THE
ERP OFFICIAL, SANTUCHO ALSO ASKED FIRMENICH FOR MONEY,
BUT FIRMENICH REFUSED, POINTING OUT THAT THE ERP ALREADY
OWED THE MONTONEROS U.S. \$600,000. THE MEETING BETWEEN
SANTUCHO AND FIRMENICH WAS HELD IN THE NORTHERN SUBURBS

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PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

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OF BUENOS AIRES. THE ERP OFFICIAL SAID THAT A LIKELY
REPLACEMENT FOR SANTUCHO AS COMMANDER OF THE ERP IS
LUIS ~~M A T T I N I~~. *Argentina*

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